

Preliminary Amendment

National Stage Entry of PCT/JP2003/013147

Attorney Docket No.: Q87201

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A sealant used in combination with a transparent material having an anti-staining layer on the surface thereof, in which the sealant comprises a reactive silicon group-containing acryl or saturated hydrocarbon based polymer.

2. (original): The sealant according to claim 1, in which the anti-staining layer is a layer having the anti-staining action of a photocatalyst.

3. (currently amended): The sealant according to ~~any one of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, in which the transparent material is glass.

4. (currently amended): The sealant according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, in which the transparent material is a building material.

5. (currently amended): The sealant according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, in which the sealant comprises an acryl-based plasticizer as a component.

6. (currently amended): The sealant according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, in which the sealant comprises a -COOCH_3 group-containing compound as a component.

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7. (currently amended): The sealant according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, in which the reactive silicon group-containing acryl or saturated hydrocarbon based polymer comprises a monomer unit deriving from a -COOCH₃ group-containing monomer.

8. (original): A sealing method for sealing a transparent material having a layer comprising an anti-staining photocatalyst on the surface thereof, wherein a sealant comprising a reactive silicon group-containing acryl or saturated hydrocarbon based polymer is used.

9. (original): The sealing method according to claim 8, in which the transparent material is glass.

10. (currently amended): The sealing method according to ~~any one of claims 8 and 9~~ claim 8, in which the transparent material is a building material.

11. (currently amended): The sealing method according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 10~~ claim 8, in which the layer having anti-staining ~~photocatalysis~~ photocatalyst on the surface thereof is a layer comprising a photocatalytic material as well as a hydrophilic material.

12. (currently amended): The sealing method according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 11~~ claim 8, in which the sealant comprises an acryl-based plasticizer as a component.

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13. (currently amended): The sealing method according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 12~~ claim 8, in which the sealant comprises a -COOCH_3 group-containing compound as a component.

14. (currently amended): The sealing method according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 13~~ claim 8, in which the reactive silicon group-containing acryl or saturated hydrocarbon based polymer is a polymer comprising a monomer unit deriving from a -COOCH_3 group-containing monomer.

15. (currently amended): The sealing method according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 14~~ claim 8, in which a silicone based primer is applied onto a portion to be sealed of the transparent material.

16. (currently amended): A sealed transparent material, obtained according to the method according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 15~~ claim 8.